(d) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(e) number of new Post Offices proposed to be opened by Government during the Seventh Plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(b) The requisite information with regard to annual rent paid State-wise, is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

However, it is not possible to furnish information with regard to total rent paid till 30th September, 1985 as in manycases, the building would have been taken on rent several years ago. In case, the Hon'able Member desires, informations in regard to specific period in the recent past, could be furnished.

(c) and (d) The Government is planning to construct departmental buildings for permanent post offices depending upon availability of Sites and Funds allotted by the Planning Commission year to year.

(e) The Seventh Five Year Plan envisages opening of 6,000 post offices in rural areas. However, in view of the existing ban on creation of new posts, this number is likely to be reduced. In urban areas no targets are fixed for opening of post offices. Proposals are considered from time to time subject to fulfilment of departmental norms.

Telephone facilities in the tribal areas

140. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government have any schemes under their consideration for providing telephone facilities in the tribal areas in various states like Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan etc.;

(b) details of such schemes and funds allocated for the purpose during the Seventh Plan period; and

(c) how many such telephones are proposed to be provided during 1985-86 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Yes Sir, The tribal sub-plan covering the tribal areas is prepared in consultation with State Units.

(b) For the final outlay of Rs. 4010 Crores for Telecom. Sector indicated by the Planning Commission, this plan is under preparation.

(c) 6,000 telephones are proposed to be provided during 1985-86.

Representation from Extra Departmentals Employees of P and T Department

141. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Extra Departmental Employees in the Posts and Telegraphs are just stagnating and have not been promoted for the last 10-15 years;

(b) whether Government have received representations from such employees and whether Members of Parliament have also written to him; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) The EDAs are employed on part-time basis when sanctioning of regular depart-

mental employees on work-load basis is not justified. Their duty hours range from 2 to 5 hrs. They are governed by a separate set of rules known as P&T EDAs (C&S) Rules 1964, and thus not treated at par with regular Govt. servants. Their remuneration is calculated on the basis of workload subject to a certain minimum and maximum. They are not generally liable to be transferred from one post to another. They are eligible for absorption in the Departmental cadres of Postman/Group D on the basis of a Departmental Competitive Examination subject to certain conditions. Hence the question of their stagnation in one post does not arise.

(b) and (c) A number of representations of EDAs had been received from time to time individually as well as through staff unions. Some Members of Parliament had also been raising questions in Rajya Sabha as well as in Lok Sabha from different angles and the Govt. had been replying to the same. Some of the Members of Parliament had been writing to the Sanclar Mantry and they had been repeatedly apprised of Govt.'s policy in this regard. As already announced in Rajya Sabha on 25-3-85, the House is aware that a One-Man Enquiry Committee has already been appointed by the Govt. which is considering all the problems of EDAs. The recommendation of the Committee when received will be considered by the Govt.

Saboor Committee report of Extra Departmental Employees of P and T Department

142. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to Unstarred question 1193 given in the Rajya Sabha on 13th May, 1985 and state:

(a) whether the Saboor Committee has submitted its report on Extra Departmental Employees;

(b) if so, what are the details of its interim report and in what manner Government have followed it up ;

(c) if the report has not yet been submitted what are the reasons for the delay and what steps Government have taken to expedite it ; and

(d) what is the number of Extra Departmental Employees of the P&T Department and what is their percentage in urban and rural areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The report could not be submitted because the analysis of replies received to questionnaires circulated by the Committee, which run into several thousand pages has not been completed yet. Moreover, the Committee, which is aligned to the Fourth Central Pay Commission cannot submit its report independently.

(d) The number of Extra Departmental Employees as on 31-3-1985, of the P & T Department is 3,00,851. Most of the E.D. Offices are located in rural areas and their percentage is on the same ratio.

Alleged assault by employees of Delhi Telephone Department

143. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated the 5th October, 1985 wherein it has been